

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05 ACDA-10

/089 W

-----100085 291547Z /53

O 291515Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6166

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS MAPUTO 1038

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MZ, RH

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO OWEN/YOUNG MEETING WITH FRONT-LINE  
PRESIDENTS IN LUSAKA

1. SUMMARY. LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF LUSAKA MEETINGS HAS  
BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD AND LOW KEY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO  
EDITORIALS OR STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT LEADERS. END  
SUMMARY.

2. FOR PAST THREE DAYS, LOCAL MEDIA HAS GIVEN LUSAKA  
MEETINGS BETWEEN FOREIGN, SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR  
YOUNG AND FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS  
FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE. FOR MOST PART, HOWEVER, COVERAGE HAS  
BEEN FACTUAL, BASED PRIMARILY ON WIRE SERVICE ITEMS FROM  
LUSAKA. PRESS AUGUST 28 QUOTED BRITISH SPOKESMAN TO EFFECT  
THAT THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE ANGLO-  
AMERICAN PROPOSAL WITHOUT THE DISMANTLING OF SMITH'S ARMY. SAME  
ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE STILL-SECRET ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN CALLED  
FOR (A) THE REMOVAL OF SMITH AND HIS GOVERNMENT, (B) THE  
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DISMANTLING OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY, (C) THE DISARMING OF  
THE ZIPA INSURGENTS AND (D) THE APPOINTMENT OF A BRITISH  
ADMINISTRATOR TO ORGANIZE ELECTIONS AND RUN THE COUNTRY  
UNTIL INDEPENDENCE WAS GRANTED. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE,  
THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL.

3. PRESS AUGUST 29 REPORTED THAT OWEN AND YOUNG HELD

EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS  
ROBERT MUGABE AND JOSHUA NKOMO ON AUGUST 28. FOLLOWING  
THAT MEETING NKOMO TOLD PRESS THAT THE TALKS HAD NOT  
RESULTED IN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S ALTERING ITS DEMAND  
THAT THE ZIPA FORCES MUST BE THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN  
ZIMBABWE'S NEW SECURITY FORCE. NKOMO ALSO INDICATED THAT  
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TEAM DID NOT PRESENT THE PATRIOTIC  
FRONT WITH ANY WRITTEN PROPOSALS.

5. NONE OF THE MOZAMBIKAN OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN  
THE LUSAKA TALKS HAS MADE ANY STATEMENTS ABOUT THE MEETINGS.  
PRESS HAS NOT CARRIED ANY EDITORIALS.

6. COMMENT. SINCE RETURN TO MAPUTO, PRESIDENT MACHEL HAS  
BEEN CHAIRING MEETING OF FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH  
IS SCHEDULED TO RUN ABOUT A WEEK. IF HE FOLLOWS HIS USUAL  
PRACTICE, HE IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE  
LUSAKA MEETING. DE PREE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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